

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims now presented in this request for continued examination (RCE) include independent apparatus claim 50 (corresponding to allowed former independent claim 12) and independent method claim 79 (corresponding to allowed former independent claim 35). As explained below, other new claims correspond to other allowed but now cancelled claims of this application.

In addition to including subject matter from previous claims of the captioned application, this amendment also joins subject matter corresponding to claims of the following co-pending US patent applications:

SN 10/717,205 (attorney docket: 2380-796/ P18939)

SN 10/717,203 (attorney docket: 2380-795/ P18938)

SN 10/717,212 (attorney docket: 2380-797/ P18940)

For each of the three above-listed patent applications, non-statutory provisional double patenting rejections were issued based on the captioned application. Therefore, inclusion of claims having subject matter corresponding to the claims of these three applications is proper and not restrictable.

New apparatus claims 51 – 63 are taken from or generally correspond to the following respective previous claims of the captioned application: 3, 6, 5, 8 – 10, 13 - 19.

New apparatus claims 64 – 69 are taken from or generally correspond to the following respective claims of SN 10/717,205 (attorney docket: 2380-796/ P18939): 22, 9 – 11.

New apparatus claims 70 – 74 are taken from or generally correspond to the following respective claims of SN 10/717,203 (attorney docket: 2380-795/ P18938): 21, 13 – 16.

New apparatus claims 75 – 78 are taken from or generally correspond to the following respective claims of SN 10/717,212 (attorney docket: 2380-797/ P18940): 8 – 11.

New method claims 80 – 86 are taken from or generally correspond to the following respective previous claims of the captioned application: 36 – 42.

New method claims 87 – 93 are taken from or generally correspond to the following respective claims of SN 10/717,205 (attorney docket: 2380-796/ P18939): 22 – 26, 33 - 34.

New method claims 94 – 96 are taken from or generally correspond to the following respective claims of SN 10/717,203 (attorney docket: 2380-795/ P18938): 21 & 28, 31 – 32.

New method claims 97 – 100 are taken from or generally correspond to the following respective claims of SN 10/717,212 (attorney docket: 2380-797/ P18940): 17/22/23, 24 – 26.

It is believed that the subject matter of the new claims, many of which have already been indicated allowable for many of the related applications, should be allowed in the present application. Upon indication of allowability, any double patenting subject matter will be removed from the three above-related applications, possibly by abandonment of the related applications.

Respectfully submitted,

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